

"Going out of Business" sale at Tampa's Army Navy Surplus has been on for nearly six months

Owner says he wants to sell everything

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• By: Brendan McLaughlin

TAMPA - The aisles were jammed in February of this year after Nick Potamitis announced he was going retire and close up his Army Navy Surplus store on Tampa Street after 75 years. Many customers thought it was their last chance to buy a piece of history.

So we were surprised to find the store still open for business today, still advertising their 'going out of business' sale.

Asked why he was still open and manning the counter, Potamitis said, "I have to sell everything before I go".

But the state law that regulates going out of business sales limits them to no longer than 60 days.

The law forbids stores from taking new deliveries during these sales. Potamitis says the store is still full to the rafters because he's been restocking from the back room.

Army Navy Surplus also failed to apply for the required going out of business sale permit from the tax collector's office, but then again, neither has practically anyone else.

In his 12 year career at the Hillsborough Tax Collector's office Brenden Chiamonte says he issued only one such permit.

Hillsborough County's Consumer Protection department says they rarely get complaints for illegal clearance sales and as a result rarely pursue penalties.

Violators can be charged with a second degree misdemeanor.

Nick Potamitis claims he'll have a buyer for all his inventory in a few weeks.

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So harassing a businessman who happens to have decades worth of military surplus is what passes for "hard-hitting journalism" in Tampa these days. It's good there is no real crime or corruption in Tampa or Florida to worry about. Oh, wait, you're in the most corrupt state in the union! (<http://tbo.com/ap/politics/study-ranks-florida-no-...>)

Why not focus on that instead of bullying a small business owner. This is just shameful.

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